



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

State of California Trade and Commerce Agency

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the California Trade and Commerce Agency (TCA) for a Brownfields Pilot. The Pilot, along with funding from the State of California, will establish the California Mill Reuse Program, which is a publicly supported program to reuse closed and abandoned wood products mill sites in the State. The California Mill Reuse Program is based on the Oregon Mill Site Conversion Project and the lessons learned in that project since 1995. The California Program will be implemented by TCA and will work with the Pilot on redevelopment plans for six targeted former mill sites.

An initial survey identified 100 abandoned or closed mills in an area covering 25 counties, primarily in the northern half of California. Further investigation revealed that the total number of former mill sites in California is much higher — there are close to 600 sites in just one county. The closure of timber mills has resulted in the 25-county area having a much lower average income than the rest of the State. The average unemployment rate is 10% and the average poverty rate is 14.8% in these mostly rural counties.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



State of California
Trade and Commerce
Agency

Date of Announcement:
July 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will work with the California Mill Reuse Program to target six closed or abandoned wood products mill sites for redevelopment.

Contacts:

Trade and Commerce Agency State of California (916) 322-1499	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA - Region 9 (415) 744-2237
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Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot plans to establish a structure for public-private cooperation to successfully develop closed or abandoned mill sites throughout California. Pilot funding will be used exclusively to assess environmental contamination on the target sites, and conduct community outreach activities directed towards those parties affected by mill closures (property owners, developers, and local residents). The TCA's long-term goal is that four of the targeted sites will be converted from abandoned to at least 50% use within five years of the Pilot's commencement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Establishing a Project Team to oversee formation of selection criteria, select sites, and provide technical assistance;
- Performing Phase I and II environmental assessments on up to six closed or abandoned mill sites;
- Recommending cleanup plans and financing sources for redevelopment of these sites; and
- Conducting community outreach activities at each participating mill site, including producing a newsletter, conducting workshops, producing a Community Guidebook for mill reuse, and holding regular meetings.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.